

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** August 11, 2000

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on August 4, 2000

**FROM:** William E. Muno, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Francis X. Lyons  
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Soil Borings Completed, Reed Chatwood Property, Rockford, Illinois**

On July 24-27, 2000, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Field Services Section (FSS) personnel assisted the Brownfields Early Action Section at the Reed Chatwood Property in Rockford, Illinois. Twenty-seven soil borings were completed using the Field Services Section's skid steer mounted GeoProbe® unit. The piezometers were installed to determine if any oily contaminants were near the water table. Once the piezometer wells were installed, an oil/water interface probe was used to obtain the desired data. This is the same site where 3 months ago FSS personnel used a high sensitivity metal detector to locate scores of buried drums onsite, which have since been exhumed and removed.

Contact: Mark Vendl (312-886-0405)

**Multimedia Inspection, IBP, Inc., Facility, Joslin, Illinois**

On August 2, 2000, Silvia Palomo and Bob Mayhugh, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, conducted an

inspection at the IBP, Inc., in Joslin, Illinois. The facility was also inspected by representatives from the Air Division, the Water Division, and the Waste, Pesticides & Toxic Division. The purpose of the inspection was to determine the compliance status of the facility with the Risk Management Program regulations mandated under Section 112(r) of the Clean Air Act. IBP, Inc., operates a cattle slaughter and processing facility. The facility submitted a Risk Management Plan, as required under the Risk Management Program regulations, for two anhydrous ammonia refrigeration systems and a wastewater treatment system. In addition to develop and submit a Risk Management Plan, subject facilities are required to develop and implement a Prevention Program and an Emergency Response Program for each process subject to the regulations. During the inspection, Ms. Palomo and Mr. Mayhugh reviewed the Prevention Program and the Emergency Response Program for each system.

Contact: Silvia Palomo (312-353-2172)

**Phase II Sampling (Brownfields), Bowser Site, Fort Wayne, Indiana**

On July 26, 2000, the City of Fort Wayne conducted more Phase II sampling on Parcel A and Parcel B of the 12-acre Bowser site. The City, under a U.S. EPA Brownfields Assessment & Demonstration Pilot, is in the process of assessing and redeveloping the 12-acre Bowser site.

Contact: Brooke A. Furio (312-353-2513)

**Conditional Design Approval, H.O.D. Landfill Superfund Site, Antioch, Illinois**

On August 9, 2000, Region 5 approved the construction portion of the final remedial design for the H.O.D. Landfill Superfund site in Antioch, Illinois. The construction portion of the design calls for installing an active leachate and gas collection system, and improving the existing landfill cap. Throughout the design review and approval process, the Region worked closely with its oversight contractor (Weston) and with Waste Management, the potential responsible party that performed the remedial design/remedial action. Waste Management expects to start construction activities in late

August 2000, and to finish most of the construction this calendar year.

The Region is still reviewing Waste Management's operation & maintenance deliverables. Unconditional design approval will occur when the Region approves these deliverables. The Region will hold a public availability session in the Antioch Village

Hall on August 23, 2000, from 6-8 p.m. to discuss aspects of the design and construction.

Contact: Ron Murawski (312-886-2940)

**Site Visit, Industrial Excess Landfill Superfund Site, Uniontown, Ohio**

During the week of July 31, 2000, Remedial Project Manager Ross del Rosario and Denise Battaglia (Office of Public Affairs) visited the Industrial Excess Landfill (IEL) Superfund site in Uniontown, Ohio, to observe the current round of groundwater sampling and to participate in a press conference. The groundwater sampling is scheduled to take two weeks and will test for organic and metal contaminants in the groundwater around the landfill. It will also include radiation testing. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency will assist Region 5 in overseeing the work.

On July 31, 2000, U.S. EPA Region 5, potentially responsible party (PRP), and Lake Township representatives participated in a media briefing at the site. Besides discussing the current sampling, Region 5 personnel explained the Agency's decision to consider an alternative capping proposal from the PRPs. This decision, described in an Agency press release, came after the local government's recommendation to not install the cap described in the March 1, 2000, Record of Decision Amendment. Instead, Lake Township officials suggested creating a wildlife habitat, which may serve Lake Township in redeveloping the site (it was recently awarded a \$100,000 grant from U.S. EPA as part of the Superfund Redevelopment Initiative). The Agency's reconsideration was commended by U.S. Representative Tom Sawyer in a separate press release.

Contact: Ross del Rosario (312-886-6195)

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

### Elimination of the Freedom of Information Act Backlog

July 31, 2000, marked the second quarter during Fiscal Year (FY) 2000, that the Superfund Division (SFD) ended a quarter with no overdue Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) responses. Since FY 1998, when the Documents Management Section (DMS) eliminated the SFD FOIA backlog, which was over 1600 requests, the backlog has remained negligible.

By the end of the third quarter FY 2000, Region 5 had received 1,806 FOIA requests in FY 2000. Of those, the SFD's DMS processed 1,153 within the statutory twenty-day time period. The DMS remains the primary FOIA processing organization within U.S. EPA, and consistently receives and processes approximately 70 percent of the FOIA requests in Region 5 annually.

A combination of factors lead to the successes of this high performance organization. Some of these contributions include strategic planning, team work, staff empowerment, training, updates to the FOIALOG tracking and monitoring system, and the Superfund Documents Management System (SDMS).

Since FY 1992, more than 31,500 satisfied customers have been provided high quality FOIA responses. The external customer list includes law firms, insurance companies, State and Federal agencies, and the general public throughout the nation.

Contact: Carolyn Bohlen (312-886-6541)

### Meeting, Brownfields Showcase Community Project, St. Paul Port Authority, St. Paul, Minnesota

On July 19, 2000, Brooke Furio, Brownfields Early Action Section, met with the St. Paul Port Authority in St. Paul, Minnesota, to discuss the progress of their Brownfields Showcase Community Project. The Port Authority received \$200,000 from U.S. EPA in 1998 to support their brownfields development activities. The Brownfields Showcase Community Project promotes cleanup and sustainable reuse of brownfields by creating partnerships with existing Federal, State, local, and non-governmental programs on a single brownfields

redevelopment project. Topics discussed during the meeting were: management, site selection, partnerships, barriers, and project goals.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

## **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

### **Flood Exercise, Indianapolis, Indiana**

On July 27-28, 2000, Sheila Calovich (Oil Planning and Response Section) and Rey Rivera (Emergency Response Branch) participated in the 2000 Flood Exercise sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency Region 5 and the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division of the Army Corps of Engineers. The exercise took place in Indianapolis, Indiana. The exercise originates from an initiative aimed at minimizing differences in expectations and creating a mutual vision for future flood response operations. The intended outcome of these sessions was a better understanding of each organization's plan of action for a flood event and an increase in cooperation and coordination among all agencies involved. There was interest from exercise participants in U.S. EPA's response authorities and response methods.

Contact: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)

### **Brownfields "Nuts and Bolts of Brownsfields Redevelopment for Local Governments" Training Course, Chicago, Illinois**

On July 24-28, 2000, the Region 5 Brownfields program worked with the Chicago office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the City of Chicago to develop a one-week course entitled, "The Nuts and Bolts of Brownsfields Redevelopment." The course was targeted at local governments and those who are interested in a practical, step-by-step education on Brownfields. This is the third time that this course has been offered. Presentation on various themes of brownfields cleanup and redevelopment were given by an experienced group of instructors from States and local governments, Federal agencies, and the private and nonprofit sectors.

Twenty people registered and attended. Students included

people from local governments, environmental consulting firms, U.S. EPA regional offices, HUD offices, and not-for-profit organizations.

Contacts: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)  
Ted Smith (312-353-6571)

**Meeting, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, ComEd, Nicor Gas, and U.S. EPA Region 5, Chicago, Illinois**

On June 27, 2000, Brooke Furio, Brownfields Early Action Section, and Eugene Goldfarb, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Environmental Officer, met with representatives from ComEd and Nicor Gas to discuss a new partnership that would establish a course similar to the *Nuts and Bolts of Brownsfields Redevelopment for Local Governments* that HUD and U.S. EPA Region 5 have already developed. This new course would be developed specifically for Chicago-area municipalities that are customers of the utility companies. The utility companies would provide

the participants funding for the course, and HUD and U.S. EPA Region 5 would provide the instruction.

Contacts: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)  
Eugene Goldfarb (312-353-1696)

**Meeting, Sediments and Brownfields, Madison, Wisconsin**

On July 17, 2000, Region 5 staff from the Office of Regional Counsel and the Superfund Division participated in a meeting of the Liability Subcommittee for the Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group in Madison, Wisconsin. The Subcommittee had asked U.S. EPA to provide insight about Federal Superfund liability with regard to sediments in rivers. Wisconsin property law gives riparian landholders ownership rights to the middle of the waterway. The committee is examining alternatives to deal with the issue of contaminated sediment with off-site origin. The Brownfields Study Group is charged by the legislature with framing possible changes to State laws or regulations which would enhance brownfields redevelopment possibilities. Possible options discussed included a Memorandum of Agreement

with U.S. EPA on the issue, use of prospective purchaser agreements and comfort letters, incorporating language on this issue in the upcoming Agency draft Superfund guidance on addressing sediments, changing the definition of riparian ownership under State law, or dealing with riparian ownership rights and liabilities as another exclusion similar to the State's off-site exemption (regulatory change or interpretation). The consensus seemed to be that a mixture of approaches would be needed. Rick Nagle will continue to consult with those on the group regarding the issue as needed.

Contacts: Jane Neumann (312-353-0123)  
Rick Nagle (312-353-8222)  
Joanna Glowacki (312-353-3757)

**Participation, Minnesota Environmental Initiative Awards Series 2000, St. Paul, Minnesota**

On July 20, 2000, Brooke Furio, Brownfields Early Action Section, participated as a panel member in an interactive discussion about public participation in brownfields cleanup and redevelopment. On April 13, 2000, Hennepin County's *Bassetts Creek Valley Interim Use Committee Project*, a U.S. EPA-funded Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot received an award for *Best Land Use and Community Development* from the Minnesota Environmental Initiative. This conference was held to allow an in-depth look at Hennepin County's *Bassetts Creek Valley Interim Use Committee Project*. Brooke Furio answered questions on U.S. EPA's Brownfields Initiative and the Agency's role in *Bassetts Creek Valley Interim Use Committee Project*. The conference took place at River Center in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

**Brownfields Cleanup and Revolving Loan Fund Informational Meetings, Municipal Members, West Central Municipal Conference, Northlake and Countryside, Illinois**

On August 2, 2000, Brooke Furio, Brownfields Early Action Section, attended two separate meetings designed to inform any interested parties of the availability of funding for cleanup at brownfields properties. This funding is being made available through West Central Municipal Conference's (WCMC) and U.S. EPA Brownfields Cleanup and Revolving Loan Fund

(BCRLF). The meetings were coordinated by WCMC, ComEd, Nicor Gas, and U.S. EPA Region 5. The WCMC and U.S. EPA Region 5 have created a partnership with ComEd and Nicor Gas to help market the BCRLF program. ComEd and Nicor Gas are utility companies which provide service to the municipalities that make up the WCMC. Two meetings were held in order to accommodate all of the members of the WCMC. The meetings were held in the Village of Northlake and the Town of Countryside and were well attended. More than half of the 37 members of the WCMC were represented along with several consulting companies.

Contact: Brooke Furio (312-353-2513)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)  
Barry Breen (OECA)  
Tim Fields (OSWER)  
Steve Luftig (OSWER)  
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)  
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators  
Division/Office Directors  
ORA State Coordinators  
Regional Team Managers